

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /066 W

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R 211517Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8446

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, SY, FR

SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU TO VISIT SYRIA AND FRANCE

1. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, CHAIRMAN OF PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK) AND FORCEFUL PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION VOICE, PLANS VISIT TO DAMASCUS END OF WEEK AND TO PARIS NEXT MONTH TO ELICIT SUPPORT FOR HIS EMBRYONIC SOCIALIST PARTY. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS PAPANDREOU'S MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS WITH PRIME MINISTER ASSAD AND OTHER BAATH PARTY LEADERS WILL FOCUS ON CYPRUS, THE AEGEAN ISSUE, AND PALESTINIAN AND MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS. PAPANDREOU REPORTEDLY WILL ALSO SEEK TO ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION BETWEEN HIS PARTY AND CORRESPONDING ARAB POLITICAL MOVEMENTS. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE OTHER PASOK DEPUTY AND TWO MEMBERS FROM THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

2. PAPANDREOU'S TRIP TO PARIS, SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN MAY, WILL BE TO DISCUSS WITH FRENCH SOCIALIST LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERAND THE ORGANIZATION OF A CONGRESS OF SOCIALIST PARTIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. PRESS REPORTED THAT ONE GOAL OF THIS CONGRESS WILL BE

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TO URGE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

3. COMMENT: PAPANDREOU'S TRIPS TO SYRIA AND FRANCE REPRESENT HIS FIRST FOREIGN VISITS SINCE THE GREEK ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR. (PASOK HAS ONLY 15 DEPUTIES OUT OF THE TOTAL OF 300 SEATS IN THE GREEK PARLIAMENT.) PAPANDREOU HAS BEEN A CONSTANT SUPPORTER OF THE ARAB/PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND HAS ADVOCATED CLOSER GREEK TIES WITH THE ARAB WORLD. IN MEETING WITH MITTERAND, ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST PROMINENT SOCIALIST LEADERS, HE OBVIOUSLY HOPES TO BOOST HIS IMAGE HERE.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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